



2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Through its June meeting the State Coastal Conservancy has provided new financial and professional support for 67 projects along California's coast and around San Francisco Bay. The \$34 million of Conservancy funding awarded in 2006 is being leveraged by more than \$63 million from the federal and local governments and private sources. The majority of the Conservancy's funding came from resources bond acts approved by the State's voters in 2000 and 2002.

Along the length of the coast the Conservancy

- awarded \$1.2 million to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation for detailed mapping of portions of the ocean seafloor between Monterey and Bodega bays, and \$400,000 to the Foundation of California State University, Monterey Bay to map the seafloor of the Santa Barbara Channel and Ventura County coast. These are the first steps of an effort to create a comprehensive, seamless **map of all of California's seafloor** from the shoreline to three nautical miles offshore. The mapping will help identify fish habitats, navigational hazards, geologic formations capable of producing tsunamis, and other features to help manage marine habitats and improve public safety. The Conservancy's funding was available through the State Ocean Protection Council. (February 3 and April 27)
- provided the Maritime Museum of San Diego with \$100,000 to plan and coordinate **Tall Ships Exposition** festivals at California ports to be held during the summer of 2008. The events will feature visits from historic tall ships and working craft from around the world in conjunction with multi-cultural educational and recreational activities. (April 27)

South Coast

In San Diego County the Conservancy

- made \$500,000 available for the preparation of environmental documents and engineering designs for restoration of **Buena Vista Lagoon**. The funding will help coordinate the restoration efforts of local, State, and federal agencies, and continues the Conservancy's work for the lagoon that began in the early 1980s. (June 29)
- provided \$250,000 to the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation to continue, for at least five years, its physical, chemical, and biological monitoring of **Los Peñasquitos Lagoon** and to update the lagoon's 1985 enhancement plan. The monitoring, which

Coastal Conservancy 2006 Accomplishments

began in 1987, has been essential to the ongoing ecological management of the lagoon. (June 29)

- granted \$50,000 to the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation for pre-acquisition expenses for the proposed purchase of two properties totaling 35 acres adjacent to an ecological reserve on **Batiquitos Lagoon** in Carlsbad. (June 29)

In Orange County the Conservancy

- provided the City of Laguna Beach with \$761,000 for its acquisition of two properties totaling more than 20 acres for addition to **Laguna Coast Wilderness Park**. The properties contain unspoiled coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats and offer trail and greenbelt connections to the coast and existing parklands. (March 2 and June 29)
- granted \$240,000 to the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy to assist in the construction of the new Wildlife Care and Education Building at the **Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center**. The building will serve as the public gateway to the Huntington Beach Wetlands, which are being restored with financial assistance from the Conservancy. (June 29)

In Orange and Los Angeles Counties the Conservancy

- joined with the cities of Seal Beach and Long Beach and the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to establish the **Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority** for the purpose of acquiring and restoring the Los Cerritos wetlands complex near the mouth of the San Gabriel River. The Conservancy and its partners have been working for more than twenty years to acquire and restore properties that contain the wetlands, and in April approved the purchase of 68 acres in Long Beach for \$7 million. (February 3)

In Los Angeles County the Conservancy

- provided \$7 million for the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority's purchase of 66 acres of the **Los Cerritos Wetlands** along the San Gabriel River in Long Beach, in a sale primarily negotiated by the Trust for Public Land. The wetlands in the Los Cerritos complex are degraded but still valuable habitat for many species of birds and other wildlife. The conservation community has been attempting for more than 20 years to purchase these wetlands for habitat protection and restoration. (April 27)
- provided \$3,600,900 to California State Parks and \$548,900 to the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains for restoration of **Malibu Lagoon**. Much of the work will be directed at increasing water circulation in the 31-acre lagoon to eliminate stagnant water that collects pollutants and promotes growth of algae. Three island refuges for birds will also be constructed, and the existing parking lot will be relocated and improved for visitor services. The conservancy

Coastal Conservancy 2006 Accomplishments

received the bulk of the funding—almost \$3.5 million—for the restoration from the State Water Resources Control Board. (June 29)

- awarded the city of Malibu \$1 million to install water-treatment equipment for three Civic Center storm drains that divert water to **Malibu Creek and Malibu Lagoon**. The equipment will screen trash from the drains and pump the water to a new treatment facility nearby. Installation of the equipment is one of many steps being taken to clean the waters of Malibu Lagoon and the neighboring Surfrider Beach. (April 27)
- provided \$650,000 to Heal the Bay for exhibit expansions and upgrades at the popular **Santa Monica Pier Aquarium**. Heal the Bay will use the funding to construct new exhibits highlighting marine life in Santa Monica Bay and the animals and plants that live along the shoreline and in the creeks that feed the bay. The funding will also be used to upgrade deteriorating equipment in the aquarium and to analyze a possible aquarium expansion. (April 27)
- provided \$350,000 to Santa Monica Baykeeper to continue its restoration of **kelp forests** at three sites in Santa Monica Bay. Project participants include students from Santa Monica who grow the kelp and volunteer divers who plant it and monitor the stands. The restoration effort was originally funded by the Conservancy in 2001. (April 27)
- provided \$150,000 to the California State Parks Foundation for wetlands creation along the **Los Angeles River** at Rio de Los Angeles State Park. The Foundation will collect, grow, and plant native vegetation from the river's watershed at the new 3.6-acre wetlands. The wetlands will re-establish native habitat that has been lost from the site and attract birds by providing protective cover, water, and forage. (April 27)
- provided \$300,000 to the nonprofit organization TreePeople for development of the **Urban Watershed Garden**, an exhibit being constructed within the Center for Community Forestry in Coldwater Canyon Park. The exhibit will include two areas that mirror each other, one presenting the existing urban watershed with impermeable paving, traditional concrete storm drains, and a concrete river channel, and the other presenting a new model for an urban watershed that includes permeable paving, gravel drains, trees, and a more natural river channel. Students will be able to compare the effects of the two systems on water quality. (April 27)
- provided \$100,000 to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy to develop the **White Point Nature Preserve Interpretive Center** on the site of the former Nike Missile Assembly and Testing Building. The center will present exhibits and provide training about conservation ecology and the preservation of local historical resources. (February 3)
- made \$245,000 available for technical studies, data collection, and other analyses necessary for restoration of the 600-acre **Ballona Wetlands** south of Marina del Rey.

Coastal Conservancy 2006 Accomplishments

The Conservancy and the Department of Fish and Game are leading the restoration's planning effort, for which the Conservancy earlier contributed \$1.25 million. (March 2 and April 27)

- provided the National Park Service with \$60,000 to restore the fish habitat of **Solstice Creek** in the Santa Monica Mountains. The restoration complements earlier work in the creek to remove several barriers to the migration of the endangered southern steelhead trout. (April 27)
- granted \$100,000 to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to upgrade its **Sea Lab** environmental marine and animal husbandry laboratory and education facilities, relocate and expand Sea Lab's native plant nursery, and plan and develop the Environmental Careers Opportunities Program. Founded in 1995, the Sea Lab serves the Corps' mission to provide employment training and environmental education to inner city youth of Los Angeles. (June 29)
- awarded \$30,000 to the National Hispanic Environmental Council to conduct its inaugural **Education and California Youth Environmental Training Institute**. The program was designed to expose minority and other youth to a variety of environmental and conservation issues, regional park resources, local projects, role models, and career possibilities, with a focus on coastal and watershed issues in Southern California. (June 29)

*In **Ventura County** the Conservancy*

- provided Santa Barbara Channelkeeper with \$100,000 to conduct water quality monitoring and identify restoration opportunities in the lower **Ventura River** watershed. The work will support the restoration of native coastal and streamside habitats for southern steelhead trout and other wildlife. (April 27)

Central Coast

*In **Santa Barbara County** the Conservancy*

- awarded \$825,000 to the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County for creek restoration and fish-passage improvements in **Arroyo Hondo and Refugio creeks** on the Gaviota Coast. The work will restore aquatic habitats for a variety of threatened and endangered species and help steelhead trout reach historic spawning areas. (June 29)
- granted \$372,000 to the Cachuma Conservation Release Board to remove a fish migration barrier and restore fish habitat on **Quiota Creek**, a tributary to the lower Santa Ynez River. This is the first step in improving access for endangered southern steelhead trout to one of the highest quality spawning and rearing habitats in the lower Santa Ynez River system. Although the quality of the river's remaining steelhead habitat is severely limited, the river contains one of the largest populations of southern steelhead remaining in the State. (April 27)

*In **San Luis Obispo County** the Conservancy*

- provided the California Polytechnic State University Center for Coastal Marine Science with \$500,000 to develop the **Morro Bay Ecosystem-Based Management Program**. The program emphasizes a holistic resource management approach that aims to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of resource management, conservation, and restoration efforts. The Conservancy's funding was available through the State Ocean Protection Council. (February 3)
- provided \$100,000 to the Trust for Public Land for the management of public access to two sandy beaches, trails, and a parking area on a 20-acre parcel at **Piedras Blancas**, up the coast from San Simeon. The site includes one-half mile of oceanfront property located in the middle of 13 linear miles of State Parks land acquired in 2004 from the Hearst Ranch. TPL has embarked on a fund-raising campaign for permanent ownership of the property and its possible transfer to the State. (April 27)

*In **Monterey County** the Conservancy*

- made \$175,000 available for preparation of a master plan for the **Coastal Trail in Big Sur**. The plan will define one or more alignments for a complete trail through the region to ensure that future construction of individual trail elements will be part of a coherent effort. (June 29)

*In **Santa Cruz County** the Conservancy*

- provided Santa Cruz County with \$600,000 to remove two barriers to fish migration on **Valencia Creek**, opening about five new miles of spawning and rearing habitat to steelhead trout. The county will use the grant to reconstruct a failed fish ladder and retrofit a culvert on the creek, which is the principal tributary to Aptos Creek. The fish ladder and the culvert currently block fish passage to upstream habitat, much of which is well suited for spawning and rearing of steelhead and possibly coho salmon, which were once found in the watershed. (April 27)
- granted \$220,000 to the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District for fish passage improvements and creek restoration at Tucker Road on the west branch of **Soquel Creek**. The funding will provide for removal of a concrete ford and its replacement with a clear span bridge—a major step toward reopening seven miles of the creek to steelhead trout. (June 29)

San Francisco Bay Area

***Around and within San Francisco Bay** the Conservancy*

- Made \$4.7 million available for the **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project** and the associated South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study, and granted \$407,000 to the San Francisco Estuary Institute and \$50,000 to the Point Reyes Bird Observatory for their continuing work on the projects. The Conservancy is leading the planning effort to restore the 15,000-acre salt ponds, the largest restoration of its kind on the West

Coastal Conservancy 2006 Accomplishments

Coast. The newly available funding came from the Santa Clara Valley Water District. (February 3 and April 27)

- made \$1,950,000 available for the ongoing effort to stem the spread of **invasive *Spartina***, a type of fast-growing cordgrass that presents a serious danger to native wildlife habitat. The funding was available from the California Bay-Delta Authority and the State Wildlife Conservation Board, and is supporting work to eradicate the weed on several sites and for research on eradication techniques. (April 27)
- agreed to make \$200,000 of Conservancy funds available and to use \$451,000 from a Department of Water Resources grant for development of the **Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan**. The plan encourages regional strategies for management of water resources and will identify projects for future funding that are aimed at improving water supply, water quality, and floodwater management. The Conservancy also approved its participation in the Bay Area Water Forum, a venue for public and private organizations to identify and work cooperatively on key water resources issues in the region. (March 2)
- granted \$200,000 to the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration for its **San Francisco Estuary Fish Passage Improvement Program**. The funding will support planning for removal of barriers to fish migration on at least four Bay Area streams to help steelhead trout reach important historic spawning habitats. (June 29)
- awarded \$150,000 to Greenbelt Alliance to complete Phase I of the **San Francisco Bay Area Upland Habitat Goals Report** under the direction of the Bay Area Open Space Council. The report will recommend the types, sizes, and configurations of habitats needed to maintain regional biodiversity and will be used to prioritize the funding and development of projects for the acquisition, preservation, and enhancement of upland habitats in the nine-county Bay Area. (March 2)
- awarded \$50,000 to Bay Access, Inc. to develop an outreach plan and an environmental education and stewardship program for the **San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail**, a proposed network of access sites enabling people in non-motorized boats to safely enjoy single- and multiple-day trips in San Francisco Bay. (June 29)

*In **Santa Clara County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$500,000 to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District for its acquisition of the historic 238-acre **Stevens Canyon Ranch** and addition of the ranch to the Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve. The ranch lies at the heart of more than 6,700 acres of publicly owned natural lands in the upper Stevens Creek watershed and provides excellent opportunities for visitors to access regional trails. (March 2)
- granted \$50,000 to the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority to plan a six-mile segment of the **Bay Area Ridge Trail** in the Milpitas-Berryessa area. The trail segment will allow hikers to walk from a creek-side corridor in Alum Rock Park to spectacular vistas above 2,500 feet in elevation. (June 29)

*In **Alameda County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$100,000 to Urban Ecology, a nonprofit organization, to prepare a conceptual plan for the **East Bay Greenway** between Oakland and Fremont. The greenway is envisioned to be a 30-mile public access and recreational corridor beneath the existing elevated BART tracks. The planning process is expected to continue through 2008. (April 27)
- approved the East Bay Regional Park District's use of \$164,000 to construct almost three miles of an addition to the San Francisco Bay Trail along the **Eden Landing Ecological Preserve** in Hayward. The project includes construction of a 24-car parking lot and a viewing platform next to a portion of the South Bay Salt Ponds restoration project. (April 27)

*In **Contra Costa County** the Conservancy*

- provided Save Mount Diablo with \$900,000 for its acquisition of a 208-acre portion of the historic **Mangini Ranch** on the south edge of Concord. The property contains a variety of wildlife habitats and offers the opportunity to extend trails from the neighboring Lime Ridge Open Space. (March 2)
- provided \$116,000 to the Natural Heritage Institute to continue planning and research for the restoration of lower **Marsh Creek** in Oakley and to support an ongoing public outreach program for the creek's watershed. Since 1999 the Conservancy has been working to restore the environment of the creek, which flows from Mount Diablo to the Delta. The current funding was made available through the California Bay-Delta Authority. (April 27)

*In **Solano County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$500,000 to the Solano Land Trust to construct a new nature center at **Rush Ranch** just south of Fairfield and Suisun City. The nature center will be open to school groups and other visitors who want to learn more about the ranch's history and the natural environment of Suisun Marsh. The center will be located in the ranch's historic center, from which trails through fields and along the edges of the marsh provide glimpses of the area as it has evolved through the last few centuries. (April 27)

*In **Solano and Napa Counties** the Conservancy*

- provided \$46,000 to the University of California for its purchase of 59 acres for addition to **Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve** above the southeast shores of Lake Berryessa. The acquisition will protect a variety of plant and wildlife habitats and greatly improve public access along the Blue Ridge Loop Trail, the most popular hiking trail in the 785,000-acre Blue Ridge-Berryessa Natural Area. (June 29)

*In **Napa County** the Conservancy*

- contributed \$2 million toward the Land Trust of Napa County's \$18.75 million cost to acquire the 3,045-acre **Wildlake Ranch** in the hills east of the Napa Valley near Angwin. The ranch is a highly scenic and biologically rich property that stretches nearly four miles north-to-south and just over two miles east-to-west at its widest point. It contains large areas of unspoiled natural land, abundant wildlife, and several potential sites for public trails. (April 27)

*In **Bayside and Inland Sonoma County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$400,000 to the City of Santa Rosa to restore fisheries and wildlife habitat and plant native vegetation in the **Prince Memorial Greenway** along Santa Rosa Creek. The funding supports replacement of a concrete channel with more natural structures to provide a better environment for salmon, steelhead, birds, and other wildlife within a popular park in the heart of the city. (February 3)
- provided the Sonoma Land Trust with \$1 million to plan and design the restoration of the 2,300-acre **Sears Point** property on San Pablo Bay. The project will restore 1,400 acres of diked fields to a mix of tidal and non-tidal marsh, and about 900 acres of uplands to a mosaic of habitats including streams, native grassland, vernal pools, and plunge pools. The restored site will contain habitats for a wide range of native animals and plants, along with a new 2½-mile section of the San Francisco Bay Trail. (April 27)
- granted \$174,000 to the Sonoma Ecology Center to remove poorly placed road fill, restore stream habitat, and re-establish natural flow patterns at two vehicular stream crossings in the headwaters of **Mill Creek** in Jack London State Historic Park. Largely because of the stream crossings, Mill Creek is one of the most sediment-polluted tributaries to Sonoma Creek, which once contained large populations of steelhead trout and chinook salmon. The Conservancy's funding was available through the State Wildlife Conservation Board. (April 27)

*In **Bayside and Inland Marin County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$100,000 to Marin County to conduct hydraulic and fish-passage studies as part of its flood protection and environmental enhancement plan for **Corte Madera Creek**. The objective of the plan is to reduce flood threats while improving habitat for wildlife, including salmon and steelhead trout. (June 29)

North Coast

*Along the **length of the North Coast** the Conservancy*

- provided \$700,000 for planning and design of fish-passage improvement projects within Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte, Siskiyou, and Trinity counties through the **Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Planning Program**. The program aims at

Coastal Conservancy 2006 Accomplishments

removing barriers to the migration of salmon, steelhead, and other fish, and follows \$670,000 of Conservancy contributions to the program since 2003. (March 2)

*On the **Coastside of Marin County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$100,000 to **Turtle Island Network** for the development of a watershed interpretive facility at its headquarters adjacent to San Geronimo Creek. The funding will enable construction of a unique outdoor learning center designed to educate the public about the links between their own land management practices and protection of the watershed. (February 3)

*On the **Coastside of Sonoma County** the Conservancy*

- granted \$250,000 to the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District to support gully and creek restoration projects on three ranches in the **Estero Americano watershed** for improved water quality and wildlife habitat. The ranch owners have volunteered to share in the costs and maintain the completed projects. (June 29)
- provided \$60,000 to the Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods for the continuation and expansion of the Willow Creek Docent Program at **Willow Creek State Park**. The funding will support a variety of educational programs, natural resource restoration, and recreational services. (February 3)

*In **Mendocino County** the Conservancy*

- contributed \$7,250,000 toward The Conservation Fund's planned purchase of two forested properties totaling more than 16,000 acres in the watersheds of **Big River and Salmon Creek**. TCF plans to continue managing the properties as working forests but will reduce timber harvests to levels that will result in improved forest structure, water quality, and wildlife habitat. (June 29)
- granted \$200,000 to the Mendocino Land Trust to prepare phase 1 of the **Mendocino County Coastal Trail Plan**, beginning a process for planning and design of a continuous trail along the county's coast. The work will include conceptual planning for trail segments not yet investigated, an assessment of trail segments that exist on public lands, and detailed planning and design for trail segments in the Navarro Headlands and Noyo Headlands/Glass Beach areas. (June 29)
- provided \$56,000 to California State Parks to purchase audio/visual equipment for the **Mendocino Interactive Underwater Program**. The program will provide two-way communication between a camera-equipped diver and on-shore participants, including students in classrooms well inland. The diver and marine scientists will provide information and answer questions on sea life, kelp forests, ocean safety, and caring for coastal and marine environments. (February 3)

Coastal Conservancy 2006 Accomplishments

- provided \$10,000 to the Moat Creek Managing Agency for operation, maintenance and management of the **Moat Creek and Ross Creek** shoreline access sites and associated trails about two miles south of Point Arena. (February 3)

*In **Humboldt County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$921,000 to the City of Arcata for its acquisition of 68 acres and restoration of 82 acres within the **Arcata Baylands**. The funding supports the city's long-term efforts to protect and restore natural lands on the northern shores of Humboldt Bay. The Conservancy's funding was available from a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant. (June 29)
- provided \$358,000 to the City of Arcata for its acquisition of the 175-acre **Sunny Brae property** southeast of the city. The forested land contains spawning habitat for coho salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout and offers sites for hiking trails and other recreational opportunities. (March 2)
- granted \$525,000 to the Friends of the Dunes Land Trust and \$300,000 to the Manila Community Services District to acquire two properties totaling 92 acres on the **North Spit of Humboldt Bay**. The beach-side properties contain a variety of natural habitats and offer opportunities for new public trails. Friends of the Dunes plans to convert an existing residence to a visitors center on one of the properties. (June 29)
- provided \$700,000 to the Redwood Community Action Agency to construct a section of the **Hammond Coastal Trail** between Letz Avenue and Murray Road in McKinleyville. The 2,200-foot trail segment will fix the "hole in the Hammond" and connect existing sections of the trail to allow uninterrupted travel for 5½ miles along the coast. (June 29)
- granted \$50,000 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to eradicate nonnative cordgrass, *Spartina densiflora*, from portions of the **Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge**. The aggressively growing plant takes over extensive areas of shoreline habitats, significantly reducing the diversity of plants and animals. 62 acres of Humboldt Bay have been targeted for eradication of the cordgrass and re-vegetation with native species. (June 29)

*In **Del Norte County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$1,000,000 to Smith River Alliance, Inc. to improve fish habitat and control erosion in the **Mill Creek** forest portion of Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park near Crescent City. SRA will use the Conservancy's funding to install refuge structures in the creeks for young fish, remove barriers to fish migration, and provide two years of winter "Storm Patrol" to remove debris and keep water flowing in the creeks. Mill Creek offers one of the best opportunities to restore threatened populations of coho salmon in the North Coast. (June 29)